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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Laghman Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Laghman from January 2002 - December 2010: \$61.1 million

Estimated population: 397,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Mihtarlam

Note: U.S.-led PRT



The province of Laghman comprises a Dari- and Pashto-speaking Pashtun majority, with Kuchi nomads bringing their herds to graze in the winter months. While much of the province's economy was destroyed during the war with the Soviet Union, the region continues to host both agricultural and mining activities. The paved Jalalabad Highway connects the province to major commercial centers, which has recently boosted the economy. While most of the area lacks a modern infrastructure, hydro-electric stations provide electricity to approximately half the population.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on enabling farmers to transition from subsistence to surplus farming through the provision of seeds and fertilizers, livestock development, improvement of irrigation and market infrastructure, and training.

Current Activities:

- Identify appropriate agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity in areas subject to seasonal drought and high risks of land degradation, deforestation, or loss of biodiversity
- Establish demonstration plots of wheat crop
- Provide technical assistance and technical training to farmers
- Provide orchard development and training in perennial crops
- Improve production of quality high-value produce, train an estimated 3,000 farmers
- Provide technical assistance to farmers to enhance their capacity for orchard management

Accomplishments:

- Constructed or rehabilitated 15 canals and 19 flood protection walls to provide improved access to irrigation for more than 6,860 hectares of land



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- Established one full-service farm store that continues to provide agriculture supplies and services to support licit crops and animal health, and has benefitted 3,102 rural households, trained 1,780 individuals, created 20 full-time equivalent jobs, and increased sales by \$838,000
- Constructed or rehabilitated 37 km of farm-to-market roads, decreasing transport time for farmers and providing employment and training for local workers
- Implemented one road project that employed 103 men
- Trained more than 768 women to maintain the health of their livestock and continue to provide veterinary services
- Trained 348 farmers in modern agriculture practices on commercial and small demonstration farms
- Promoted livestock health through support of avian influenza detection and outbreak management, support of a livestock management program, and establishment of one self-sustaining veterinary field unit
- Developed skills and created employment opportunities through cash-for-work projects for more than 11,460 men and women, providing more than \$3 million in wages.
- Modernized market intelligence systems using e-mail, the Internet, and cell phones, which continue to provide agriculture information for five regional markets through both daily reports to thousands of subscribers and text messages to people requesting price information
- Provided improved vegetable seeds, fertilizer, and technical assistance to 3,100 farmers to increase productivity, improve farm-gate quality, and increase access to agricultural markets
- Distributed seed and fertilizer vouchers to 53,300 farmers
- Established three orchards on 560 hectares of land and distributed 173,900 of fruit trees to approximately 1,000 farmers
- Provided high-yield vegetable and wheat seeds, as well as fertilizer, to more than 47,300 farmers
- Provided training to 108 farmers and farm laborers on crop production, post-harvest handling, packaging, and marketing for okra, tomato, eggplant, cucumber, and watermelon
- Established 70 demonstration plots and four village-based seed enterprises, as well as provided practical training to more than 400 farmers
- Trained 1,480 Afghans in business management skills and provided additional off-farm business skills training to 143 individuals working in different micro-enterprises
- Provided vocational training for more than 90 disabled and vulnerable women to enable them to obtain employment, earn an income, and become more financially secure
- Helped women establish their own businesses, including canteens, bakeries, women's apparel stores, beauty parlors and small shops
- Established three commercial demonstration farms and 32 small demonstration farms that have provided training related to modern crop production practices for thousands of farmers
- Installed 16 farm turnouts
- Established the Laghman Farm Service Center that provides agricultural inputs and services, and has produced sales of \$3.4 million and created 21 full-time equivalent jobs
- Trained 3,400 farmers in agriculture related activities
- Benefited 26 individuals through financial agreements
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law on behalf of herders
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Supported provincial Kuchi Shura
- Assisted 17,000 farmers through voucher programs
- Facilitated sorting, grading, improved packing, and export documentation for more than \$500,000 worth of onion exports for local farmers



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- Distributed improved vegetable varieties through voucher programs to 7,600 farmers
- Established 10 hectares of new orchards and provided training on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques for 35 farmers

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of government services to Afghan citizens.

Summary: USAID builds the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of government services to citizens in Laghman Province through activities including supporting the justice sector, media, civil society, and governance development.

Current Activities:

- Train provincial and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Support the Radio Kawoon station in Metalam, Laghman with program funding and technical support as part of a national network of local radio stations that broadcast independent national satellite programming from Salam Watandar
- Support Afghanistan Women's Education Center as an intermediate civil society support organization, which will organize community dialogues, run resource centers, monitor grantees, and provide capacity building to target civil-society organizations
- Embed technical advisors in provincial line departments, who provide on-the-job training to civil servants to increase service delivery
- Provide capacity building, training, and small grants to eight Afghan Civil Society organizations showing potential to be sustainable, effective organizations in the province
- Train Provincial Council Members on the PCs legal rights, monitoring, and oversight, and getting them communicate with the constituents and represent them with government entities
- Provide \$25,000/month through the Performance Based Governors Fund for governors to cover operational expenditures and do community outreach projects

Accomplishments:

- Supported the development of the justice sector through the publication and distribution of judicial reference laws
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the Afghanistan Court Administration System
- Provided core, skills, and ethics training for judges allowing them to better officiate over the courts
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, and provided institutional, capacity-building training to civil society organizations
- Provided training and support to provincial councils, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Supported the 2010 voter registration update exercise; assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and candidate poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the 2010 election, and provided civic education and media outreach activities for broad-based participation to promote a democratically-elected government



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- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and Sharia scholars
- Supported voter registration, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys, and helped supported the 2009 presidential and provincial council elections
- Built a district judicial facility in Qarghayi

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Promote a thriving, licit economy led by the private sector.

Summary: USAID promotes a licit economy in Laghman Province through expanding access to telecommunications and modern banking services.

Current Activities:

- Promote economic related information and data collection activities in Laghman Province to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Support the revenue reconciliation team of the Laghman Mustofiat, centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Support the Ministry of Finance's provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to Laghman provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates
- Promote improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

Accomplishments:

- Facilitated and launched the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) effort to connect provincial government offices in Laghman with Kabul through broadband technology (this Government Communications Network facilitates active, transparent governance by linking national- and local-level decision-makers)
- Installed four District Communications Network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, Internet, and photocopying services to both the district government officials and the public at large
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided additional communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private sectors)
- Conducted a banking survey in July 2007 to determine basic banking habits of the public, including the extent that bank accounts are used, whether banks were used for changing money, and to gauge the interest in obtaining bank loans to start new businesses or purchase homes
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Laghman Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of GIROA revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System



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- Held a provincial budgeting capacity-building workshop and trained 43 Laghman officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs that better reflect local needs and priorities
- Funded vegetable marketing programs in Qarghayi and Mihtarlam to promote private sector growth
- Constructed one market and one set of market latrines to improve commercial infrastructure
- Supported business association development (seven new associations have been founded to date, and a business association incubator was launched within the Agriculture Directorate)
- Supported vocational and business skills training for women in Qarghayi district to empower a traditionally disadvantaged population
- Trained more than 176 entrepreneurs from various small and medium enterprises in business development and management
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed more than \$4.9 million in microfinance loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Established one Islamic Investment and Finance Cooperative and one Point of Service with 3,000 members (7.6 percent women)
- Disbursed \$1.17 million in Sharia-compliant loans

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; support community-base education; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Laghman through three national education programs. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-government organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Provide radio-based teacher support programs in order to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Support 46 community-based school classes and five adult literacy centers in two districts to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Offer literacy and productive skills training to youth and adults in 48 communities through 185 literacy centers
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Established 185 literacy centers for 4,470 youth and adults (71 percent female) in 48 communities
- Constructed 20 schools
- Printed nearly 2.5 million textbooks

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.



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Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Laghman come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products, pre-service training for Community Midwives, and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through 57 private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in five sentinel sites
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS)
- Establish provincial Quality Assurance committee to ensure skilled health care providers
- Launched a community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant mortality and improve mothers' reproductive health
- Train Community Health Worker Trainers and Community Health Supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians

Accomplishments:

- Trained 13,800 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare in the province
- Trained Provincial Health Officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure in order to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program for Laghman Province focuses on the construction of government buildings and roads, water, and flood control facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy through the use of locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Construct 26 bore wells to provide potable water supply to residents of Mehterlam District
- Build the Qarghayi District Bridge to link the community to its neighbors and encourage trade

Accomplishments:

- Increased access to potable water through the construction of 101 wells in Qarghayi District
- Constructed the Department of Power and Energy building addition
- Rehabilitated the Abizai Bridge, road, and culvert in Qarghayi district, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and facilitating access to health services and educational institutions
- Provided protection from floods through the construction of two retaining walls, including the Alishing district bazaar protection wall



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- Constructed or refurbished 137 wells to increase access to water supply and improve the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Constructed Alishing, Alingar, and Dawlat Shah district government buildings to improve delivery of government services
- Upgraded the four-kilometer Mendrawar Junction to Qarghayi Road to extend economic development, and government and social services to the rural areas

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan Government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

Current Activities:

- Support community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)
- Provide tailored assistance to fit the circumstances of war-affected families

Accomplishments:

- Provided technical support to the Provincial Development Council during the writing of the Provincial Development Plan
- Provided capacity-building, technical training, and mentoring for the governor's office, the Provincial Development Council, and provincial ministries
- Built five suspension bridges, facilitating trade routes and access to schools, health clinics, and governance centers
- Equipped and furnished the governor's office and other Afghan government offices to create a more professional working environment and to foster better service provision to the constituents of the province
- Rehabilitated 49 irrigation canals to improve agricultural access to irrigation
- Conducted vocational training for 390 young men
- Improving the health of local communities and their livestock by training farmers in animal care, disease identification, and vaccination technique
- Engaged communities in reforestation and the establishment of family-owned nurseries
- Offered vocational training to more than 440 women necessary to launch careers in poultry farming and cheese production
- Helped more than 73 war-affected families through the delivery of small business kits for incidents in Groch Village, Mehterlam District